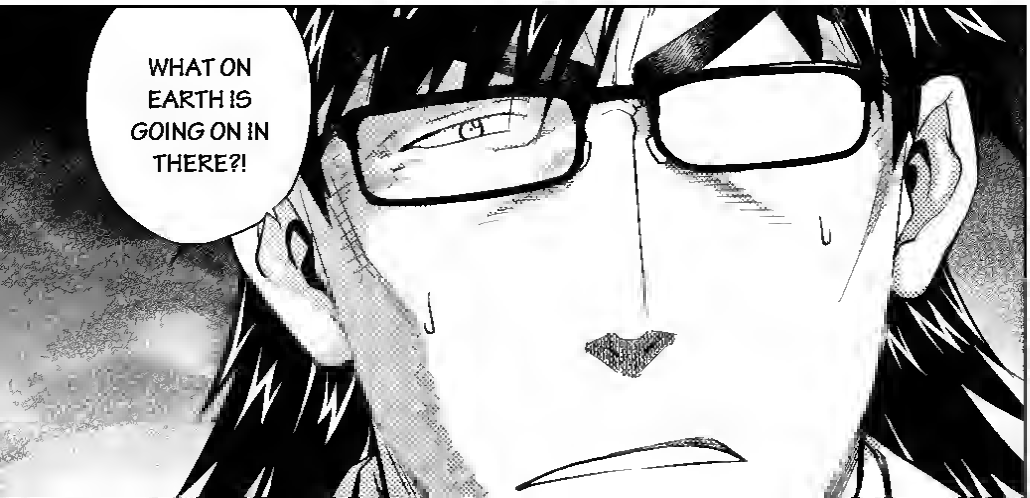
KL-
KLANGG
ACTION MASK

IT'S NO GOOD, IT WON'T OPEN..!

GOU! HEY, GOU!
BAM
BAM

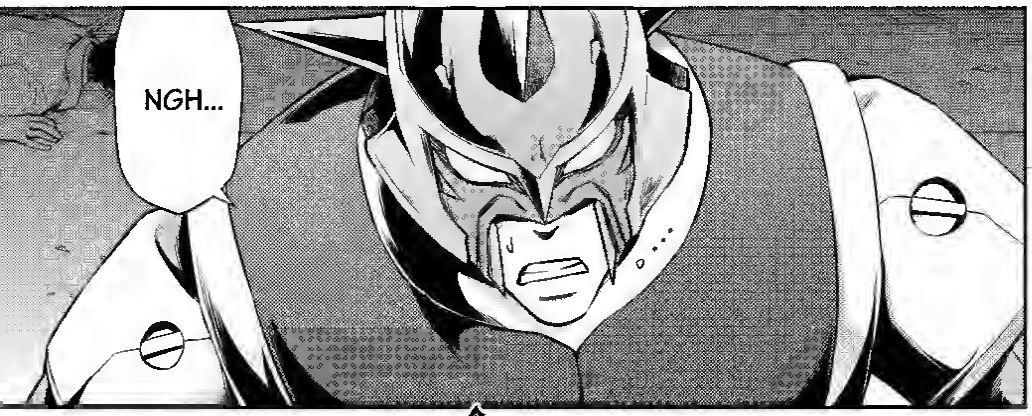

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON IN THERE?!

CHAPTER 17 - THE TWO WOMEN

ACTION MASK

HIS FIST BREAKS ONLY THE MIND OF HATE.

ORIGINAL CHARACTERS: YOSHITO USUI MANGA: DATTO NISHIWAKI
STORY: PROJECT ACTION MASK


NGH...

R-
R-
R-
R-
R-RUMBLE-

YOUR WORDS ONLY SERVE TO AGITATE ME MORE.
AND THE STRONGER THE HATE, THE MORE POWERFUL I BECOME!
THIS IS BAD.
IF THINGS GO DOWN LIKE THAT LAST TIME, I'LL HAVE NO WAY TO STOP HIM!

WHOOM
AS I AM RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF BEATING ME!
GAAHH!
KICK
CRASH
HGK...!
BZAK
BZAK

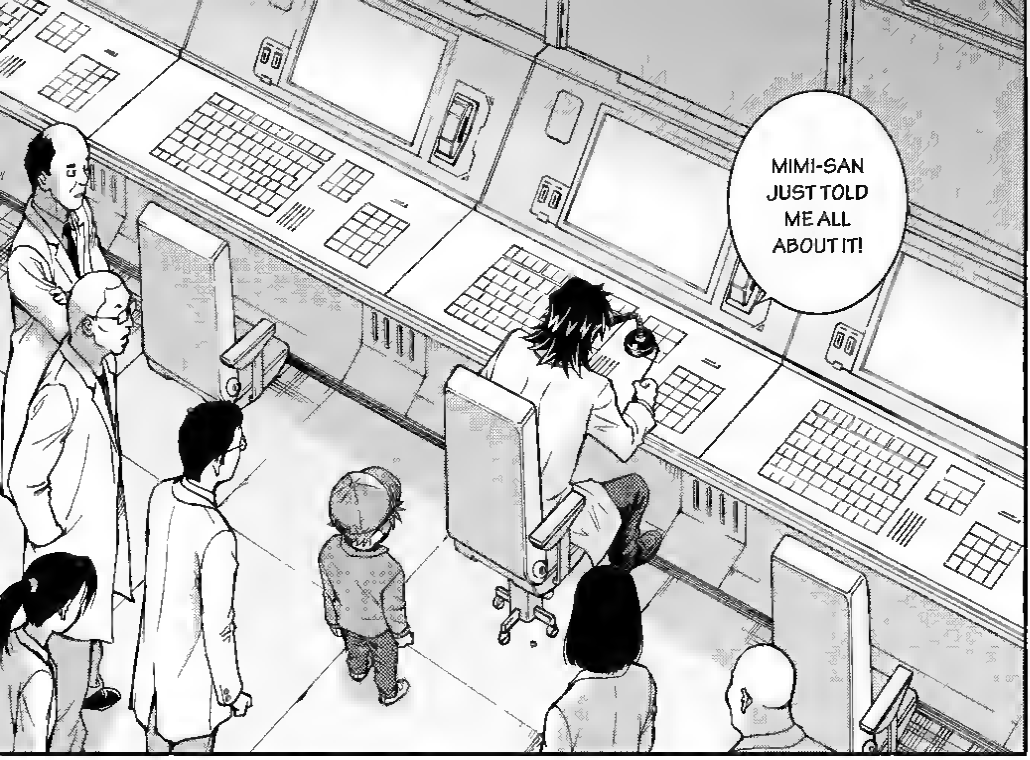
IT'S OVER FOR YOU!
GIVE IT UP.
HE'S STRONG!
SHAA

DAMM-IT...!

THAT HIS SISTER'S DEATH WAS FORGOTTEN.
JUDGING BY HIS REACTIONS, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT IT'S RELATED TO HIS SISTER'S DEATH.
ISN'T THAT THE SOURCE OF DARK MASK'S HATE?
DASH
SHIF
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT STARTED IT?

GET READY!
LUNGE
I WON'T LET YOU DIE PEACE-FULLY!
.....!!
GOU!
LISTEN...!

MATSUZAKA'S SISTER WAS YOUR OLD SELF'S LOVER!
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?!


MIMI-SAN JUST TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT!

WAIT.
EH?
IS MIMI ALL RIGHT?!

Y-YEAH...
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HER
SHE'S RECOVERED ENOUGH TO SPEAK NORMALLY?

SHE SAID THAT MATSUZAKA'S SISTER IN THE PHOTO WE SAW IS THE SAME PERSON AS THE WOMAN IN YOUR LOCKET.
THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TALK MATSU ZAKA DOWN AS YOU ARE...

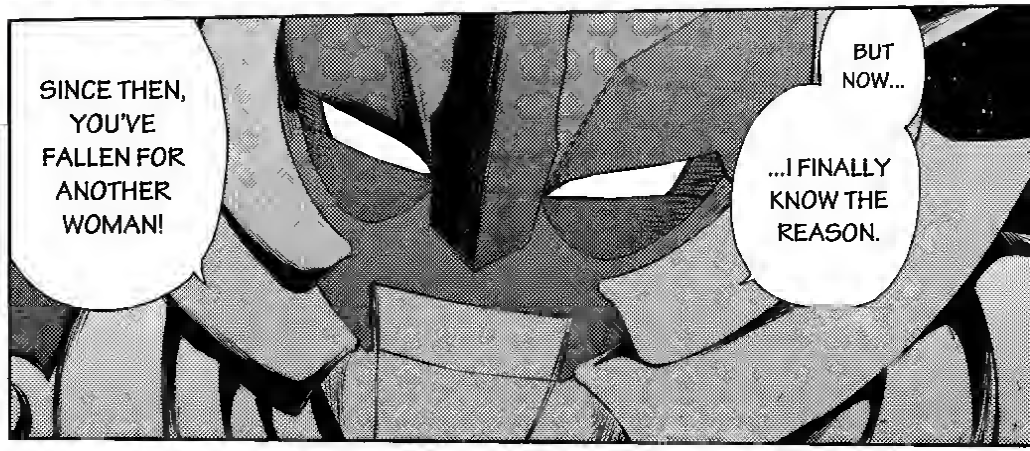
LOOM...
REALLY?
THANK GOODNESS
HMPH... YOU'VE GOT GUTS, IGNORING ME.
THEN MY SISTER REALLY MEANS SO LITTLE TO YOU...?
REACH
KLANK
...!
MY LITTLE SISTER WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
ACTION MASK!
HE'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

.....!!
KRIK
KRIK
EVEN AFTER HEARING ABOUT HER, THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS IMMEDIATELY THINK ABOUT THAT OTHER WOMAN.
SO HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
YOU DON'T ACT LIKE YOU REMEMBER MY SISTER AT ALL.
KRIK
.....
EVEN AFTER MY SISTER DIED LOVING YOU-!!

I WANT TO KILL YOU.
CLENCH
CLENCH
CLENCH
HER MEMORY WILL NEVER BE REVIVED, NOW!
HAAA-GH!
KA-
POW

GOU!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
MY SISTER WAS YOUR LOVER!
THAT MEANS WE'RE BOTH MEN WHO'VE LOST HER!
THAT'S WHY!
SP
I WANTED YOU TO REGAIN YOUR MEMORY AND HELP ME EXACT MY REVENGE!
THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED!
AK
THE MAN SHE CHOSE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER WIMP!
HOWEVER, ACTION MASK...
IT'S NOT EVEN THAT. YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH COLD-HEARTED PEOPLE, AND BECAME A THORN IN MY SIDE.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
ONCE YOU SHOWED UP, YOU DIDN'T EXHIBIT ANY SIGNS OF REMEMBERING
ヨロッ
WOBBLE

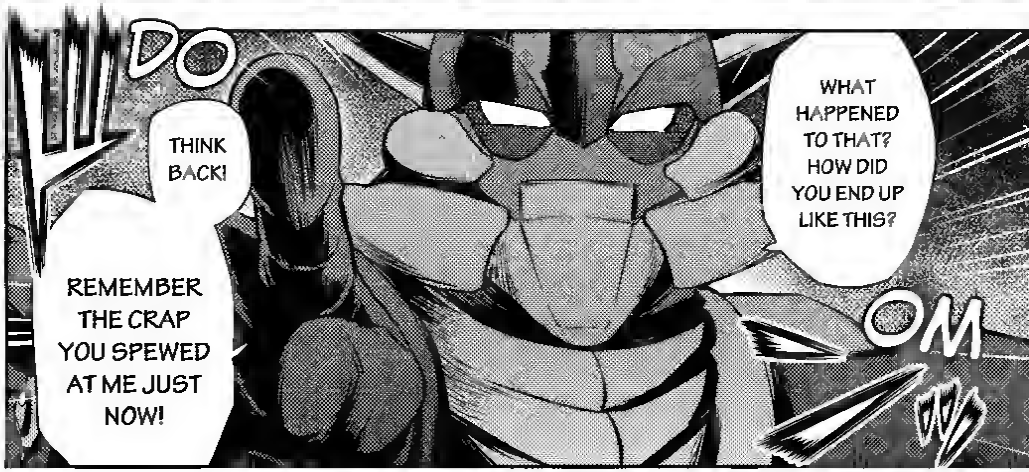
LEAN


SINCE THEN, YOU'VE FALLEN FOR ANOTHER WOMAN!
BUT NOW...
...I FINALLY KNOW THE REASON.

.....!
THUDD
SP
YOU'RE NO LONGER THE MAN WHO LOVED MY SISTER!!
AK

HMPH... SO HAVE MY WORDS HIT HOME A BIT?
.....
KNOW YOUR SHAME IN THIS!
EVEN THOUGH MY SISTER ALWAYS KEPT YOU IN HER HEART...
...UPON MY ARRIVAL BACK IN JAPAN, SHE PURPOSELY GREETED ME TOGETHER WITH YOU.
ON THE DAY OF THAT INCIDENT AT THE AIRPORT...
THEN I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER FACT YOU'VE APPARENTLY FORGOTTEN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
MAR-RIED?!
THAT'S BECAUSE... SHE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT YOU TWO WERE GETTING MARRIED.

NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU WROTE THAT NO MATTER WHAT, YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO LOVE MY LITTLE SISTER.
YOU WROTE LETTERS TO ME WHILE I WAS AT LABORATORIES OVERSEAS.


DO
THINK BACK!
REMEMBER THE CRAP YOU SPEWED AT ME JUST NOW!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT? HOW DID YOU END UP LIKE THIS?
OM

DARK MASK... THAT'S THE SOURCE OF YOUR HATRED.
IT'S THE REGRET THAT HER DEATH IS FORGOTTEN.
THE ANGER TOWARDS ALL THOSE SUPERFICIAL PEOPLE WHO'VE FORGOTTEN.
IS THAT IT...? I SEE NOW.

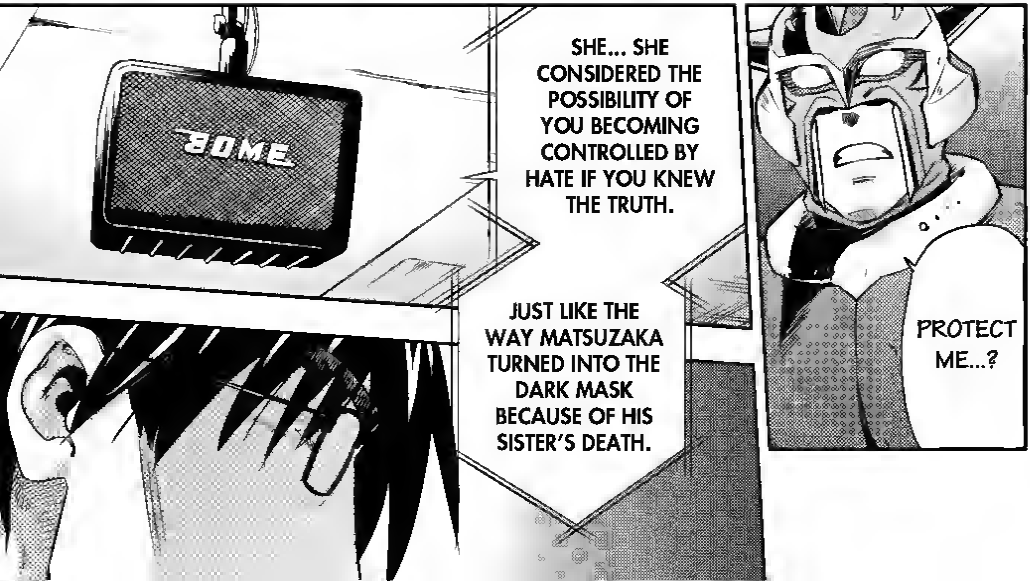
KKH...!
I... SCREWED UP!
YOU GET IT, HUH...? THAT'S WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE NO HERO.
YOU'RE A HYPOCRITE! HEARTLESS, ALL TALK...!
THA- THAT'S NOT...
WAVER
ヨロ!!
RATHER THAN LOVE HER 'TIL THE END, YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THOSE FEELINGS, CAN YOU?
THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH YOUR WORDS ARE EMPTY, AND THOUGHTLESS- RANDOM BULL SPOUTING FROM YOUR MOUTH
YOU'RE WRONG... THAT'S NOT IT!

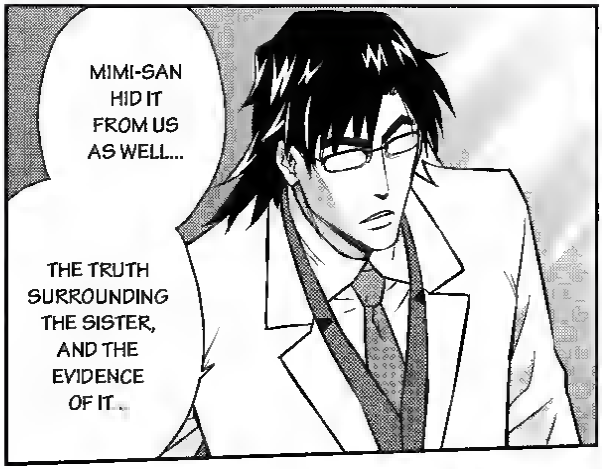
IT'S NOT JUST MY SISTER.
IT'S THAT WOMAN TOO.
EVERYONE WHO CONCERNS THEMSELVES WITH YOU ALL GET HURT
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND...!

MIMI...!

GOU...
IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID THOSE THINGS TO MATSUZAKA, OR PUT MIMI THROUGH ALL THAT...!
FUKIAGE.. PLEASE TELL ME.
WHY DID MIMI HIDE THE TRUTH FROM ME..?

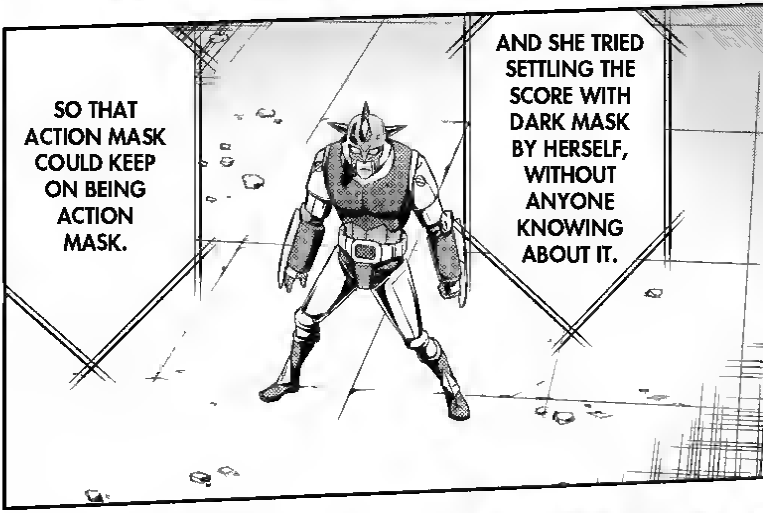
GOU.
MIMI-SAN WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU.


DOME
SHE... SHE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU BECOMING CONTROLLED BY HATE IF YOU KNEW THE TRUTH.
JUST LIKE THE WAY MATSUZAKA TURNED INTO THE DARK MASK BECAUSE OF HIS SISTER'S DEATH.
PROTECT ME...?


MIMI-SAN HID IT FROM US AS WELL...
THE TRUTH SURROUNDING THE SISTER, AND THE EVIDENCE OF IT...

WAVER
ヨロ
NO...
I'M THE SOURCE...?

AND THAT'S WHY SHE PULLED THAT CRAZY STUNT...


SO THAT ACTION MASK COULD KEEP ON BEING ACTION MASK.
AND SHE TRIED SETTLING THE SCORE WITH DARK MASK BY HERSELF, WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING ABOUT IT.

MIMI PULLED THAT OFF FOR MY SAKE.

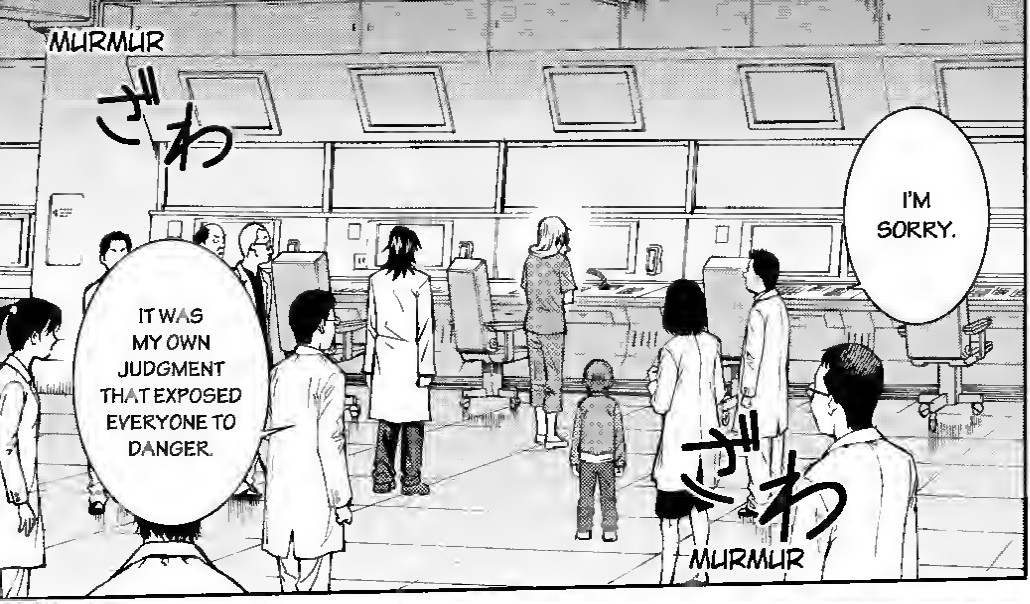
MIMI-SAN CAN BE A LITTLE RASH.

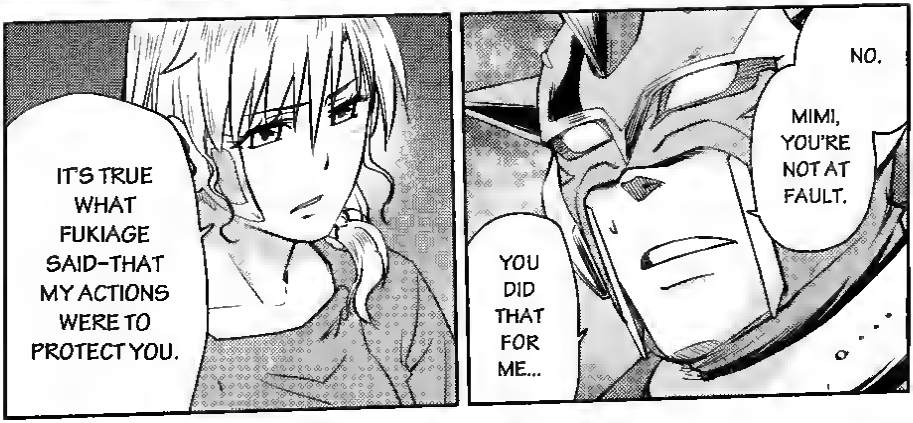
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE THE REASON THAT WOMAN AND MY SISTER WERE HURT.
SHFF...
I... HURT HER...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HER...!
THAT'S RIGHT.
EVERYTHING IS YOUR FAULT, ACTION MASK
SHFF...
I... COULDN'T PROTECT ANYTHING...
THUDD

KLANG
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AROUND THAT EVERYONE GETS HURT...!
I...
...FEARED THE SEED BURIED INSIDE ME...
...AND LET ALL THAT TO HAPPEN TO MIMI.
IT'S AS HE SAYS.
I'M NO HERO AT ALL.
HGH...!

IF YOUR LOST MEMORIES WERE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, DO YOU THINK YOU'D WANT THEM BACK?
HEY.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU LOST SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, THE WAY PROFESSOR MATSUZAKA DID?
I'M SCARED OF GETTING MY MEMORIES BACK.
I WANT TO KNOW, BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
...I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S BECAUSE I MIGHT BE TRAPPED BY HATRED AS WELL
IT'S MY FAULT...!
IF I HADN'T SAID ALL THAT, THEN MIMI WOULDN'T HAVE SACRIFICED HERSELF!

YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE NOT AT FAULT!
IT'S ALL ON ME!
MIMI?!

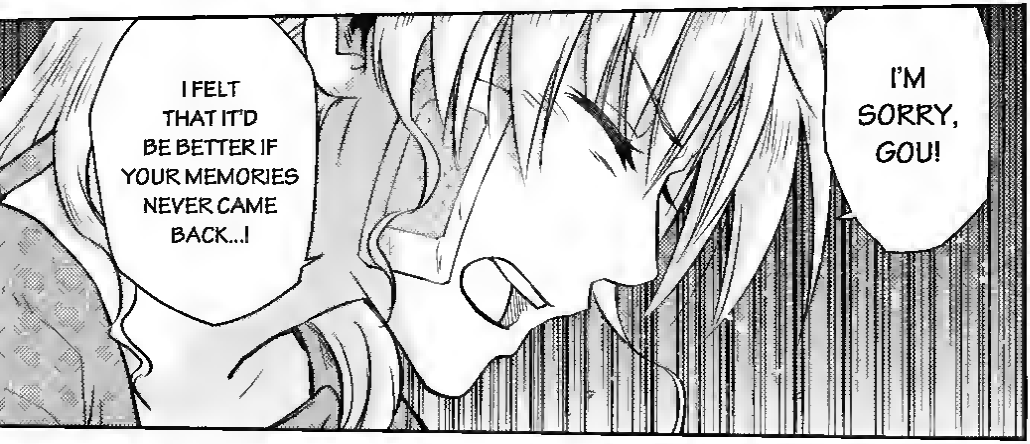

MURMUR
ざわ
I'M SORRY.
IT WAS MY OWN JUDGMENT THAT EXPOSED EVERYONE TO DANGER.
ざわ
MURMUR


IT'S TRUE WHAT FUKIAGE SAID—THAT MY ACTIONS WERE TO PROTECT YOU.
NO.
MIMI, YOU'RE NOT AT FAULT.
YOU DID THAT FOR ME...

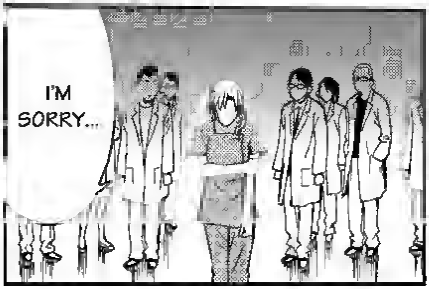
LOOK.
THE REASON WHY I KEPT QUIET ABOUT YOUR LOVER WAS.
IT ACTUALLY WAS..
MIMI-SAN..
BUT THERE'S ONE MORE REASON AS WELL.

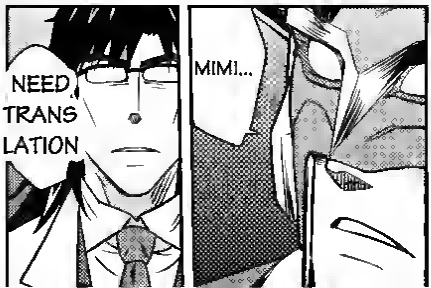
I...
TRUTH-FULLY, I LOVE YOU...
.....
HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH...

CACKLE
ケヒラ
EVERYONE THINKS ONLY FOR THEMSELVES!
THAT'S THE TRUE NATURE OF MAN!
ケヒラ
DO YOU SEE, ACTION MASK?!
EVERYONE LIVES FOR THEIR OWN DESIRES!
CACKLE ケヒラ


I FELT THAT IT'D BE BETTER IF YOUR MEMORIES NEVER CAME BACK...!
I'M SORRY, GOU!

MIMI-SAN...


I'M SORRY...


NEED TRANS LATION
MIMI...

YOU ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME.
YOU ALWAYS STOOD CLOSE TO ME, AND ALWAYS WATCHED OVER ME.
YOU MADE EVERY EFFORT TO WORRY FOR ME AND TO UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL
...BUT..
SHFF
GOU...
I'M SORRY I NEVER NOTICED IT UNTIL NOW.
I HAVE ALLIES WHO SUPPORT ME.
WHENEVER I NEED THEM, MY COMRADES HELP ME AND SPUR ME ON.
THEY'RE THE REASON WHY I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT THIS LONG.

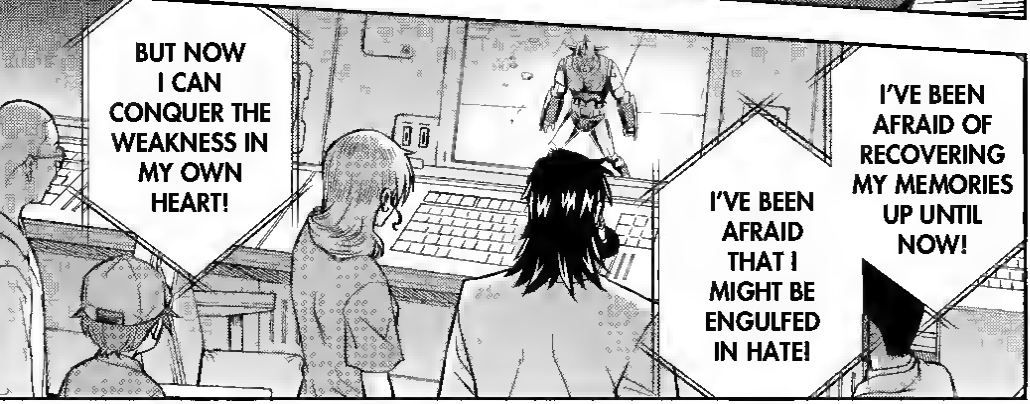
BUT YOU, MATSU-ZAKA-SAN...
YOU'VE GONE ON WITHOUT SHARING YOUR SADNESS AND ANGER OVER LOSING YOUR SISTER WITH ANYONE.
!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
IF I HAD MY MEMORIES OF HER, I COULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT YOU, AS WELL.
RIDICU-LOUS!
DID YOU THINK THAT KID'S TALK BULL-CRAP WOULD MOVE ME?!
KRAK

MIMI!
GASP
HGK...!
IF YOU NEGLECTED THAT MUCH, THEN YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN!
CLANG
IT'S TRUE THAT WHAT YOU DID MAY BE WRONG!
SHARING INFORMATION IS THE FOUNDATION OF AN ORGANIZATION, AFTER ALL!
CLANG
DO YOU GET IT, MATSUZAKA-SAN?
YOU CAN MAKE CONDOLENCES WITH AND REFLECT ON THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST AND MATURE FROM IT.
THAT'S HUMAN!
YOU TAKE ACTION BASED ON YOUR OWN FEELINGS AND DESIRES!
HOWEVER, YOU CAN REFLECT ON THAT ALL AND MAKE USE OF IT TOO!

...!!
THAT... IS ALSO HUMAN!
RIGHT NOW, I'M PUTTING ALL YOUR EFFORT TO WASTE!
MIMI!
WAIT! IS HE--?!
?!
EH...?

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO KILL ME, AS WELL.
MATSUZAKA-SAN
I UNDERSTAND YOUR HATE TOWARDS ME
SHFF
...HUH?!
BUT WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER!
LET ME RECOVER MY MEMORIES OF HER!
NOW, OF ALL TIMES?!
KRACK
WHY CAN YOU REMEMBER THINGS NOW WHEN YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER THEM BEFORE?!
SPAK
UGH...!

?!
...I'M NOT AFRAID!
THAT'S BE-CAUSE...


BUT NOW I CAN CONQUER THE WEAKNESS IN MY OWN HEART!
I'VE BEEN AFRAID THAT I MIGHT BE ENGULFED IN HATE!
I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF RECOVERING MY MEMORIES UP UNTIL NOW!

NO, HE WON'T!
IF YOUR SEED CRACKS OPEN, YOU'LL BECOME LIKE THE DARK MASK...!
WAIT, GOU!

THAT SEED'S NOT GOING TO CRACK OPEN!
GOU WON'T CHANGE, NO MATTER WHAT!

BUT HIS WORDS WERE REAL!
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE CAME BACK TO THEIR SENSES!
MISATO-CHAN...
IF GOU LEARNS THE TRUTH AND STARTS HATING SOMEONE...
THEN EVERYTHING HE'S SAID TO EVERYONE ALL THIS TIME WOULD BECOME A BUNCHA LIES!

IF HE REALLY BELIEVES HIS OWN WORDS, THEN GOU WILL NEVER DROWN IN HATE!

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, GOU?!
GRIN
ニヤリ
...YEAH!
PAL! MY MEMORIES!
YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET THEM BACK, RIGHT?
TURN
HOLD ON, GOU.
I CANNOT RESTORE YOUR MEMORIES
EH...?

IF I CDULD RESTORE THEM, I WOULD HAVE LONG AGO.
BUT YDUR MEMORIES ARE STORED AND LDCKED AWAY DEEP INSIDE YDU... BY YOURSELF.
I CAN'T OPEN THEM.
...I SEE.
I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO BRING THEM BACK... UP UNTIL NOW.
I'M DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
I BELIEVE I CAN RESTORE THEM FOR SURE.
I GOT IT.
...BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT, PAL.

I'LL GIVE ALL I'VE GOT TO RECALL THEM.
SO PLEASE, PAL!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR.
THAT'S WHY...
HARSH MEMORIES FROM THE PAST ARE NECESSARY TO MATURE
BUT I GET IT, NOW.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I'M COUNTING ON YA, PARTNER!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, TOO...!
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU, GOU.
...VERY WELL.
OKAY, LET'S DO THIS!
UURAAAA-GH!!
...!!

ARE YOU KIDDING?!
HE'S GOING TO RECALL HIS MEMORIES THROUGH SHEER WILLPOWER?!
OF COURSE HE WILL!
HE CAN DO IT!
..BUT GOU MAY BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF!
OOAAAA-AAH!!!

AAAAAR-
GGH!!
ROOAR
FW-
VOOOOM
BA-SHING
.....

I WILL REMEMBER!
FOR HER SAKE!
MATSUZAKA-SAN, FOR YOUR SAKE!
AND FOR MY OWN SAKE!!
REMEMBER IT ALL! GOU!